Participants Enjoy Convenience & Freedom of E-Mail Correspondence

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partners met face-to-face for the first time on October 5, at the Advisory Council Annual Meeting. Formal program communications continued by e-mail and occasionally in person through April, 2001. A wrap-up luncheon brought students and e-mentors together again in May.

In addition to previous research completed on the subject of mentoring, Dr. Corinne Dickey, program coordinator, was awarded a fellowship by the Kellogg/MnSCU Leadership Institute to complete further research and build the College’s E-Mentoring Program. Dickey maintains strong connections with others who guide mentoring programs and has a passionate interest in mentoring and its positive effects. In a paper presented to participants at the 17th Annual International Mentoring Association in Washington, D.C. on March 29, 2001, she says, “The E-Mentoring Program makes mentoring convenient for mentors and students. Business professionals, who may not have the time to travel and meet face-to-face for mentoring meetings, can readily provide advice, suggestions, and support to students...while sitting at their desk...or out of town.”

“I truly enjoy mentoring,” he says, “and I like this format. It prompts thoughts. It provides the opportunity to be spontaneous and creative — to have a dialogue. It gives me time to respond thoughtfully to Brandon’s comments. I like the idea of giving him the benefit of my own experience and helping him make good decisions.”

Hank Todd, Vice President, Business Development, Government and Tourism, Carlson Companies, Minneapolis, is an executive who stays put somewhat more often, but is still a fan of the e-mail format for mentoring. “It’s informal. Building a relationship is always a two-way street and this makes it easier. I can be a resource wherever the student is. It’s personalized. It offers me an opportunity to give back.”

Each year the structure of the College of Business E-Mentoring Program has been slightly changed to reflect the needs of participants. Students and e-mentors routinely evaluate the program in writing and in conversation at group wrap-up meetings. Honesty evaluation by participants has helped shape a system of communication that really works.

For example, the first-year session was judged to be too short by participants. While mentors and students are free to continue their relationship after the formal program, without it, a heavy travel schedule would prohibit the frequent communication necessary to develop a mentoring relationship.

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... Dear Friends, continued

port of our business Advisory Council. Under the extraordinary leadership of Greg Les, the chair of the Council, members have been engaged in a variety of activities. Just to name a few, this will be the second year of the Advisory Council’s award program where a distinguished businessperson, faculty member, and student leader are recognized. This year’s awards will be conferred at our October 2, 2001 annual Advisory Council meeting. Please refer to an article in this newsletter that lists the recipients and their accomplishments. Similarly, it is the second year of a very successful event entitled Student Appreciation Day. On April 17 Advisory Council members visited professors’ classes and shared their knowledge and expertise with students and faculty. Furthermore, on that same day, Advisory Council members conducted a “wrap-up” of the popular Advisory Council E-mentoring Program that began last October 5. A separate article discussing the continued success of this program is in this newsletter.

There is no better validation of satisfaction with our quality educational programs than the generosity shown by our friends and alumni this past year. A complete list of our generous donors is in a separate section of this newsletter. Many thanks to each of you! I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge a few private gifts that were established this past fiscal year. A special thank you goes to the late B.H. and Betty Chesley for establishing the Chesley Business Endowment. This legacy gift will support equally the Department of Management and Marketing in educating students majoring in those disciplines. I would also like to extend appreciation to the late Elmer and late Nina Anderson for their generosity and support of an endowed scholarship. This year their endowment provides six scholarships in the College of Business. Fred and Diane Lautz, Dave and Caroline “Lyle” Hunerberg, and Ron and Jeannette Doggett have also generously supported the college scholarship fund or various other College of Business activities, and I thank you for your interest and dedication.

A quote by Chester O. Fischer seems appropriate. “The future that we study and plan for begins today.” Your interest in the College of Business is gratefully appreciated as we create the future of business education at Minnesota State University, Mankato.”

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